

Message Text

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INFO ALL CSCE CAPITALS 0215

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLO SACLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCLANT

USDOCSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 7225

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE; PFOR; PARM

SUBJ: CSCE: CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES - TROOP MOVEMENTS

1. AT ITS NOVEMBER 28 MEETING, SUB-COMMITTEE ON MILITARY SECURITY HELD BRIEF, INCONCLUSIVE AND RATHER LISTLESS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON QUESTION OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR MILITARY MOVEMENTS. THIS WAS FIRST TIME SUB-COMMITTEE HAD DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE SINCE SUMMER RECESS AND IT WILL PROBABLY NOT COME UP AGAIN PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS BREAK. HIGHLIGHT OF DISCUSSION WAS INFORMAL PROPOSAL OF A PARTIAL MEASURE BY AUSTRIANS, WHICH MARKED A RETREAT FROM THEIR PREVIOUS MAXIMALIST POSITION CONCERNING MOVEMENTS.

2. WITHOUT TABLING ANY TEXT, AUSTRIANS SUGGESTED THAT SUB-COMMITTEE ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE A MEASURE PROVIDING FOR PRIOR NOTIFICATION ONLY OF MOVEMENTS OF TROOPS

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ACROSS FRONTIERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REINFORCEMENT OR AS

A NEW DEPLOYMENT. MOVEMENTS ACROSS FRONTIERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ROTATION OR WITHDRAWAL WOULD NOT BE COVERED BY NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT. YUGOSLAVS SUPPORTED AUSTRIAN IDEA, POINTING OUT THAT IT COVERED TYPES OF MOVEMENTS THAT WERE MOST LIKELY TO CREATE TENSION WHILE EXCLUDING THOSE WHICH PRESENTED GREATEST DIFFICULTIES FOR NEGOTIATION.

3. THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE REACTION FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS BUT SILENCE WAS FINALLY BROKEN BY THE BRITISH, WHO FOR TACTICAL REASONS WANTED TO REGISTER CONTINUED INTEREST IN A CBM ON MOVEMENTS. BRITISH REMINDED SUB-COMMITTEE OF THEIR ORIGINAL PROPOSAL ON THIS ISSUE, SAID THEY WANTED TO REFLECT UPON AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL, BUT EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT ANY PARTIAL MEASURE AS WELL AS ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR REACHING AGREEMENT ON DEFINITIONS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF MOVEMENTS. GREEKS WERE ONLY OTHER NATO DEL TO COMMENT AND WERE CRITICAL OF AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL'S EXCLUSION OF MOVEMENTS THAT TOOK PLACE ENTIRELY WITHIN NATIONAL BORDERS. GREEKS ALSO COMMENTED THAT TYPES OF MOVEMENTS COVERED IN AUSTRIAN SUGGESTION WERE LIMITED TO THE TWO MILITARY ALLIANCES AND THAT IT WAS UNDESIRABLE TO GIVE A CBM A BLOC-TO-BLOC CHARACTER.

4. SWEDISH REP TOOK THE FLOOR TO REITERATE VIEW THAT MOVEMENTS OF NAVAL AND AIR UNITS COULD BE AS SIGNIFICANT AS MOVEMENTS OF TROOPS. SWISS REP MADE BRIEF, MUDDLED COMMENTS ON THE HELSINKI RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING MOVEMENTS. OTHER NEUTRAL REMAINED SILENT.

5. ROMANIANS STRESSED THEIR PREFERENCE FOR BROAD PROVISIONS ON MOVEMENTS USING SAME PARAMETERS AS FOR NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS. ROMANIAN REP POINTED OUT THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT LIMITING NOTIFICATION TO MOVEMENTS ACROSS FRONTIERS BECAUSE THIS WOULD TEND TO LEGITIMIZE SUCH MOVEMENTS. OTHER WARSAW PACT DELEGATIONS KEPT SILENT DURING DISCUSSION BUT SEVERAL COMMENTED CRITICALLY ON AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS.

6. AT CAUCUS OF NATO SUB-COMMITTEE REPS FOLLOWING THE NOV 28 MEETING, BRITISH REP SAID IT SEEMED A GOOD SIGN THAT

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AUSTRIANS AND YUGOSLAVS WERE FINALLY BEGINNING TO LOWER THEIR EXPECTATIONS AND REDUCE THEIR DEMANDS ON THE MOVEMENTS ISSUE. HE THOUGHT THIS DEMONSTRATED MORE REALISM ON THEIR PART BUT WARNED THERE WAS DANGER THAT NEUTRALS, OUT OF FURTHER DISCOURAGEMENT OVER STAGE II PROSPECTS, MIGHT ULTIMATELY BE ATTRACTED TO SOVIET IDEA OF DEFERRING CONSIDERATION OF MOVEMENTS TO FOLLOW-UP-STAGE. CAUCUS AGREED THAT ALLIES SHOULD THEREFORE CONTINUE IMPRESSING UPON

SOVIETS THAT THIS IDEA WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO WEST. IT
WAS ALSO AGREED THAT WHILE US WOULD REMAIN SILENT ON
MOVEMENTS ISSUE, OTHER ALLIES MIGHT TELL NEUTRALS IN-
FORMALLY THAT WEST STILL PREFERRED ORIGINAL UK PRO-
POSAL FOR MOVEMENTS NOTIFICATION. CAUCUS ALSO AGREED
TO PRESS FOR SUB-COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAM COVERING REMAINING MEETINGS
BEFORE CHRISTMAS BREAK WHICH WOULD CONCENTRATE ITS DIS-
CUSSIONS ON ISSUES OTHER THAN MOVEMENTS. THERE WAS
GENERAL FEELING THAT NEUTRALS IN ANY CASE DID NOT EX-
PECT MOVEMENTS TO BE DISCUSSED AGAIN BEFORE THE BREAK.
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